RESULTS OF THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AND THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

PRESIDENT: I have to announce to the House the results of the election held last evening in respect of the Public Accounts Committee and the Standing Finance Committee.

As regards the Public Accounts Committee, eight candidates had offered themselves and the ballot box was favourable to Mr. A. Easwara Pillai and Mr. K. A. Narayana Pillai, and in regard to the Standing Finance Committee Mr. Pottayil S Krishna Panickar and Mr. Pacode A. Narayana Pillai.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): Sir, there are two A. Easwara Pillai's. I wish to know which of the Easwara Pillai's is elected.

PRESIDENT Mr A. Easwara Pillai, Kottarakara.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*Contd.*)

DEMAND X - FOREST—(*Contd.*)

PRESIDENT: We will proceed to the discussion of Demands for Grants. Forest was under consideration when the House rose last evening and Motion No. 502 had been finished. We will now take up item No. 503.

Motion No. 503.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, I beg to move:

That the allotment of Rs. 30,512 for Direction be reduced by Re. 1.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. The amount includes non-votable items. I wish to know whether that can also be discussed?

PRESIDENT: That will be eliminated. He cannot speak about non-votable items.

MR. S. J NAIR (*Nedumangad*): The object of my motion is "To discuss the need and necessity of granting the registry of swampy areas inside the Reserve Forests in order to control the epidemic of malaria and to develop paddy cultivation in the State". Sir, it is known to all that there are extensive areas of swampy lands that lie idle inside the Reserve Forests in Travancore. Some time ago the Swampy Areas Committee was appointed and they have recommended the need for the registry of the swampy areas. But I must inform the Honourable members of this House as well as the Government that the members of the Committee were not given proper facilities and convenience by the Forest Department authorities to go and have personal inspection of the lands that are best suited for registry as well as for paddy cultivation. The officers in the Forest Department were very careful to see that these gentlmen were not taken to the interior parts of the Reserved

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. S. J Nair.]

Forests and shown useful and best places. They were not enabled to see those beautiful parts inside the Reserve, that are best suited for the paddy cultivation It is known to all that there are vast areas of swampy lands inside the Reserve Forests suited for paddy cultivation. *At this stage the President left the Hall and the Deputy President took the Chair.* So far as these lands are concerned, they are not at all useful for the Reserve Forest. There is no tree growth inside these swampy areas and by no stretch of imagination, the Government or the Forest Department can say that these swampy areas must be reserved for all time to come. We know that lands in Travancore are not sufficient for the production of paddy to meet the requirements of the country. We are importing a large quantity of paddy from outside. Rural population is increasing from year to year. It is therefore highly necessary that we must find some means by which the people are provided with food. In order to solve the problem of the supply of paddy, it is necessary that the swampy areas inside the forests must be given in registry to the people of Travancore,

The second point is that the swampy areas are the source of breeding mosquitoes and consequently for the outbreak of malaria in the eastern *pakuthies* of Kottarakara, Neyyattinkara and Nedumangad. It is admitted by the Medical Department that the mosquito is the cause for the outbreak of malaria. Those who have seen the swampy areas know as a matter of fact that they are the breeding places of mosquitoes, and our common sense as well as practical experience very well teaches us that it is due to swampy areas that there is malaria in the eastern *pakuthies* of these taluks. Only in the eastern *pakuthies* of these taluks are there Reserve Forests and swampy areas lying waste and only in places that lie adjacent to the Reserve Forests, malaria exists. So, it is evident that these swampy areas are the breeding places of mosquitoes and the root-cause for malaria.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the recent sudden outbreak of malaria was due to the extent of swampy areas?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*); It is not sudden out-break of malaria. The people of the eastern *pakuthies* of Kottarakara, Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara know as a matter of fact that malaria has been prevailing in those parts from time immemorial. It is not a sudden out-break. The reason for the prevalence of this epidemic is the presence of swampy areas. Either Government will have to see that these areas are filled up and mosquito breeding prevented, which would cost lakhs and lakhs of rupees to Government or they should see that, if they are useless for the purpose of the Forest Department or for conservation of forests, they are given to the people in registry and help the development of paddy cultivation in the State.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether cultivation of paddy is an effective method of preventing mosquito breeding?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Yes, Sir, it is. I know personally that there are several swampy areas in the Nedumangad taluk which were malarial 15 years ago; but as a result of registry and cultivation of those areas malaria has vanished. So I can say positively that the cultivation of paddy or any other cultivation would be an effective preventive for the growth of these mosquitoes and the out-break of malaria.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*) : May I know whether it is the expert advice?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : It is the result of practical experience. It is an opinion that has been got as a result of experience and sturdy common sense, Sir.

PRESIDENT : Mr. S. J. Nair talks as an expert on this subject.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : So I submit for the consideration of the House and the Government that swampy areas should be given in registry to the people. With these observations, I request the House to accept my motion.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*) : I also support the motion. We all know that in recent times the importation of foreign rice has reached an abnormal stage. Had it not been for the importation of foreign rice, I do not know how the people of Travancore would get on now-a-days. There was a time when Travancore was self-sufficient in regard to rice and means of subsistence, But in recent times it has become difficult to live without importation of foreign rice; and as such,it should be the look-out of Government that as far as possible opportunities are given to the people to encourage rice cultivation.

Sir, on this question of opening swampy areas inside reserve forests, there are so many practical difficulties. First of all these areas are not within easy reach or they are not in the neighbourhood of the inhabited regions. We have no means of access to these areas.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : May I know whether extensive areas in Mannan kandom were set apart for paddy cultivation?

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*) : Yes. That is on account of the opening of the Pallivasal-Neriamangalam road. I am of opinion that, unless there are means of accessibility to these inland areas, there is no use for moving such a motion and asking the forest department for throwing open these areas for public use. It would be imposible to cultivate them and protect them from the ravages of wild beasts such as elephants, wild boars, etc. So the first thing to do is to extend the means of communication to such areas.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether the member is aware of the existence of swampy areas by the side of public roads?

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*) : Yes, but only very few areas. As far as possible, those swampy areas near inhabited places and to which it is possible to have easy access should be open to private individuals and registered in their names. With these words, I support the motion.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): I rise to support the motion. But I may say that I do not wish to share the opinion that the registry of the swampy areas will prevent breeding of mosquitoes or it will be an effective preventive against the spread of malaria. With regard to the other portion of the motion, I am in full agreement with the mover, Sir. The fact that we have to depend upon other countries for our main food grain has to be taken very serious notice of. Sir, it is very easy to say that it is so and we cannot help it. But I do not think that the Government have made a serious attempt to investigate as to whether enough paddy for the consumption of the people of Travancore can be raised in this State. The Economic Depression Enquiry Committee has pointed out that once upon a time Travancore was not merely self-sufficient in the matter of its food grain, but it was also exporting large quantities of paddy to outside areas, and Government were receiving a substantial sum by way of export duty collected from paddy. But it is stated that, owing to the disproportionate increase of population and the scanty extensions of the area under paddy cultivation, we have reached a stage when we are not at all able to satisfy our wants with regard to food grains from the crops raised in Travancore. Sir, I think the Government have not seriously adverted to this question of making Travancore self-sufficient in the matter of paddy. Sir, the importance of making a country self-sufficient in the matter of food-stuffs is not merely economic. It is a matter of paramount necessity which will be realised when there is some such calamity as war or other difficulty which will make it impossible for us to get our very necessary food grains from other parts of the world. That difficulty was experienced at the time of the Great War and people in this land know very well what it is to depend upon other countries for their daily food-stuffs.

Sir, the Swampy Areas Committee's Report has been published as the reports of many other Committees have been published and they are kept in the archives of Government without proper action being taken on that. The Conservator of Forests seems to be very jealous with regard to the maintenance of the area under the reserved forests. But, Sir, in most of the swampy areas in the forest, those who have visited at least parts of them must, I think, be convinced that no valuable timber grows in these areas except *Thampakam* in particular areas. No other valuable timber grows in these swampy areas. These areas are allowed to remain as waste. No profit is derived by the Government from these areas while there are exceptionally good soils for the cultivation of paddy. The reason that prevents the Conservator from registering these areas, to private individuals is this. If these people are allowed to cultivate, they will gather there and they may try to get into the adjoining regions of the reserve forests, fell trees and make depredations in the forest areas. For that, effective measures have to be taken to prevent such things. On the other hand, I think it will in a way facilitate the prevention of such acts that are now being done in the forest, because, when there are large number of people inhabiting a locality and if anybody commits a theft or depredation, there will be

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

others who will be jealous and will complain against them. The Forest Department authorities also will be more vigilant in their watch and there will be less chances of these irregularites being committed inside the forest. Now, Sir, the whole of the forest region which is the boasted wealth of Travancore is a land of mystery to the ordinary man. We do not know what store of wealth is there, and we do not know what amount of depredation is going on there. We do not know the amount of timber that yearly perishes on account of wild fire, we do not know the amount of other products that are collected by the people irregularly. When we consider all these matters, and when we consider also the fact that it is a matter of paramount importance to make the State self-sufficient in the matter of food supply, I think the motion of Mr. S. J. Nair that a thorough investigation must be made into the available swampy areas in the forests with a view to make it available for cultivation for the growing population of the State is very reasonable. With these words, I have great pleasure in supporting that part of the motion of Mr. Nair.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, the question of registering swampy areas inside the forest is not a new thing either to the Government or to this House or to the old Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. As a result of representations made during the past several years, Government appointed Committees in different taluks to inspect and to find out whether there are swampy areas of sufficient extent to be registered to people without interfering with the forest conservancy. The Committee, consisted of a few officers, and a few people of local influence and with knowledge of the locality. It was not, as Mr. S. J. Nair said, that all the members of the Committee were officers, Or that all those people who served in the Committee were under the influence of the Forest Department. The Committees had submitted reports to Government and Government after due consideration have passed orders. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai was saying that these reports are filed still in the archives of the Secretariat. It is not so. Proceedings of the Government on the report of the Taluk Committees have already appeared in the Gazette and the disafforestation recommended by the Committee has already been taken up. We are conducting demarcation and survey and transferring such lands to the Revenue Department and they are being registered. According to the report of the Swampy Area Committee, about 2,000 acres were recommended for disafforestation, of which about 800 or 900 acres are within the High Range Division.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May know from the Government how many acres of swampy areas were disafforested in the Neyyattinkara, Nedumangad and Kottarakara taluks?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No Taluk Committees were appointed there. Government were already aware that there were no extensive swampy areas in those taluks. In those taluks where swampy areas were available for registry, Committees were appointed.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the Government on whose recommendation Government appointed Taluk Committees?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It was not on anybody's recommendation. Government themselves appointed on their own accord those Committees.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the Government whether, when Taluk Committees were appointed, Government consulted the Conservator of Forests in which all taluks, Committees must be appointed?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Government appointed Taluk Committees on the representation made them to them in the old Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know from the member who conducted investigation in these taluks with regard to the existence of swampy areas?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The Forest Department was already aware of the existence of the swampy area in those taluks. One of the conditions in appointing these Committees was that swamps of sufficient extent which would not interfere with the conservancy of forests should alone be considered by the Committtes and recommended.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether the Forest Department inquired into the question of swampy areas in the three taluks of Nedumangad, Neyyattinkara and Kottarakara?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know why they did not investigate with regard to other taluks?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): In the case of other Taluks, the department was aware of the existence of swampy areas of sufficient extent. But in the case of the Nedumangad and the Neyyattinkara taluks, the swamps available were so small that if they were registered, the conservancy of the foressts would seriously suffer.

MR. A. S. DAMODAAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): What is the extent of the swampy area in these taluks?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Here and there, there are small bits of 5, 6 or 7 acres; that is all.

With regard to the statement that it is the swamps inside the forest reserves that are responsible for the propagation of malaria in the country, I am very glad, Sir, that I now have an opportunity to explain to the House and to the general public that the forests really prevent the spread of malaria and do not propagate it as was observed by some honourable members. In fact, Sir, it has been the impression throughout India that the forests were responsible for the spread of malaria in the country. The Bengal Government thought it necessary to appoint an officer to go into the question and to investigate how far the forests were responsible for malaria. Mr. M. O. T. Aiyangar, who

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

was then employed under the Tropical School of Medicine at Calcutta, was put on this work. He travelled throughout the country and conducted investigations on anopheles both inside the forests and outside. The result of his investigation showed that the mosquitoes found inside the forests were completely inocuous and were not malarial mosquitoes. On the other hand, it was found that, in the areas where the forests had been cleared, such inocuous mosquitoes were immediately replaced by the malarial mosquitoes.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*) : May I ask whether the epidemic manifestation of malaria is so frequent in the disafforested area in Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara as in the forest areas? (Mr. S. J. Nair: *Hear hear.*)

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is no malaria inside the forest, Sir. It is only where natural conditions are disturbed and the forest cleared that the malarial mosquitoes take the place of the inocuous ones found in the forests.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Are there human beings inhabiting the forests?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Investigations have shown that the people living in the forests are free from malaria and that only such of them as come out and mingle with the people living in disafforested areas that get malaria. That has been our experience also.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Do not the Kanikars reside inside the forests?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I am going to explain all that, Sir.

PRESIDENT : Please have some patience, Mr. Nair.

MR. R. DHHNUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): During the malaria epidemic, we found that none of the Kanis who confined their activities to the inside of the forests actually caught malaria; in fact, there was not a single case of death among them due to malaria. It is only such of them as came in contact with the people outside that contracted malaria.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): Do not the Kanis generally live in regions above the malarial level?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : No; in Kulathupuzha and such other places, the forests are not above malarial level.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Have they become malaria proof? (*Laughter*).

PRESIDENT : So, you want to go and live in the jungle, Mr. Nair? (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I point out to the Conservator of Forests that, even among the experts themselves there is serious difference of opinion with regard to the causes and cure of malaria?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I was only quoting the observations made in the report of Mr. M. O. T. Aiyangar, when he was working under the Calcutta Tropical School of Medicines' as a result of his investigations on this question. This is what he says:—

> "The investigations recorded in the present paper show not only that species of Anopheles which occur inside jungles in Bengal are harmless to man, but that jungle forms a definite protection against the breeding of species capable of transmitting malarial infection. It would be harmful, therefore, to effect any extensive deforestation without taking proper safeguards by way of Anopheles control, as by the opening up of forest land, breeding places which have been harmless hitherto are rendered favourable for the breeding of carrier anopheles. These observations point to a preservation of all existing jungle and to extension of jungle whenever feasible.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I point out to the member that the extract that he has read out refers only to jungle and not to swampy areas inside the reserve forests?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I may inform the member that the investigation by Mr. Aiyangar was not confined to hill tracts alone. It also extended to swamps, Sunderbands and such other tracts, the like of which we also have here.

I hope it will be clear to the House that the forests have been wrongly blamed for propagating malaria. Even assuming that the forests are responsible for malaria, the registry of a few acres here and few more acres there is not going to solve the problem.

I may submit, in this connection, Sir, that I have never been against the registry of large extents of land suitable for paddy cultivation. Even before the Neriamangalam road was opened, it was at my suggestion that the Committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of converting the Mannankandom area. The land was inspected even before the road was opened, and a report was submitted recommending the registry of the area and also suggesting the opening of a road at a cost of about a lakh of rupees, as it was estimated at that time. Recently, about 900 acres in the High Ranges are proposed to be thrown open for registry. The original idea was that it might lie over till the opening of a road. It was I that pointed out that the area could be registered even before the opening of the road so that the problem of food supply might be solved to some extent. The matter is still under the consideration of Government. Therefore, Sir, I have always been in favour of judicious registry of suitable lands inside the forests.

With these words, I beg to oppose the motion.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): Is there any danger to the forests, in registering away all the available land within the forests?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes; I have already explained that. It will be prejudicial to the conservation of the forests.

PRESIDENT: What is your course of action, Mr. Nair, in the light of the explanation given by the official member?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, the reply of the official member is not at all satisfactory. Sir, the Conservator of Forests himself has admitted that, for the taluks of Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara alone, no Committee was appointed to investigate the extent of swampy areas available within the reserved forests. I can assure the House that, if a committee is appointed, I can show them vast areas of swamps, quite fit for paddy cultivation, available inside the forest reserves in these taluks also. I have been reliably informed by respectable gentlemen belonging to my constituency that plenty of such areas are in existence inside the forests. I therefore press the motion to a division.

The motion was put to vote and lost.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I demand a poll.

PRESIDENT: You had a very good answer last evening for your demand for a poll. Anyhow, I shall allow it now.

A poll was taken, and the House divided as follows:—

AYES—18.

1 Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan	11 Mr. Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon
2 „ K. R. Elenkath	12 „ Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai
3 „ S. J. Nair	13 „ V. Ramakrishna Panickar
4 „ K. P. Krishna Menon	14 „ R. Raman Pillai
5 „ Pottayil S. Krishna Panickar	15 „ R. Sivaraman Nair
6 „ T. Krishna Pillai	16 „ A. Thanu Pillai
7 „ K. Kunjukrishna Pillai	17 „ P. K. Thomas
8 „ K. M. Kuriakose	18 „ N. E. Varughese
9 „ K. A. Narayana Pillai	
10 „ Pacode A. Narayana Pillai	

NOES—26.

1 Mr. N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib	15 Mr. C. O. Madhavan
2 „ K. C. Abraham	16 „ K. Madhavan
3 „ T. K. Alexander	17 Srimathi T. Narayani Amma
4 „ V. T. Chacko	18 Mr. G. Nilakantan
5 „ C. V. Chandrasekharan	19 „ N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
6 „ S. Chattanatha Karayalar	20 Rao Sahib S. Parameswara Aiyar
7 „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai	21 „ Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai
8 „ Antony George	22 „ R. Pitchu Aiyangar
9 „ K. George	23 Rao Bahadur A. Rengaswami Aiyar
10 „ M. Mahomed Haneef	24 Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai
11 „ N. John Joseph	25 „ T. C. Thommen
12 „ N. Kesava Panickar	26 „ John Whitely Tolson
13 „ E. V. Krishna Pillai	
14 Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai	

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

NEUTRALS—13.

1	Mr. A. Easwara Pillai (*Kalkulam II*)	7	Mr. M. K. Madhavan Pillai
2	,, A. Easwara Pillai (*Kottarakara*)	8	,, S. Nilakanta Pillai
3	,, T. C. Joseph	9	,, K. Padmanabhan
4	,, T. T. Kesavan Sastri	10	,, Changanacherry K. Parameswaran Pillai
5	,, K. M. Krishnan	11	,, S. Thiraviam Nadar
6	,, E. K. Kunjuraman	12	,, V. K. Velappan Nair
		13	,, T. P. Velayudhan Pillai

The motion was declared lost.

Motions Ns. 504 507.

The following motions were not made.—

Mr. S. J. NAIR :

504. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,512 for Direction by Re. 1.

MR. S. J. NAIR :

505. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,512 for Direction by Re. 1.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI :

506. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,400 for Deputy Conservators by Re. 1.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :

507. To reduce the Allotment of Rs. 6,988 for Depot Establishment by Re. 1.

Motion No, 508

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, I move—

"*That the allotment of* Rs. *7,756 for Protection of Games be omitted*"

Sir, my object in doing so is to bring to the notice of the Honourable members of this House as well as the Government the fact that this post is unnecessary. In these days of economic depression when the State is hard pressed for money and the people are really suffering, the saving which will be effected if this motion is carried will relieve the poor agriculturist to some extent and help the Government to utilize the amount for better and useful purposes. With these observations, I beg to move this motion for the acceptance of this House.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : Sir, I rise to support the motion. Sir, I do not know what work the Game Warden has actually turned out and whether it has resulted in benefit to the public or to any person in or outside the State. The employment of the same person as the Superintendent of the Museum as well shows that the Game Warden has not got sufficient duties to attend to. It will be clear from the fact that a person having his headquarters at Peermade is in charge of an important office in Trivandrum. If both these duties could be properly discharged by the same individual it does not seem that there is sufficient work either for the Game Warden or for the Superintendent of the Museum. I therefore support the motion.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): Sir, I support the motion. It is not my concern whether the individual is a retired officer or not. To me, it appears that there is absolutely no necessity for such an officer because the Forest Department can attend to the work of this office also. The Forest Department has been for a very long time discharging the duties of this office. A costly office is quite unnecessary for this purpose.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Sir, many years ago, I had myself reported to the Government about the depletion of game in our forests. Travancore was once famous for the abundance of wild animals; but due to several causes the present condition is that the wild animals have rapidly gone down in number. I have been looking into this and my observation showed that every year the number was decreasing.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Are there not provisions empowering the Forest Department to deal with the question effectively ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Yes. But there has been poaching everywhere and in some cases and we had to engage vakils and spent a lot of money. All these involved so much of difficulties and protection was not really efficient.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Is it the suggestion of the member that the officer should run about to prevent poaching ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : To some extent he is doing it.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Is it what a guard or a watcher cannot do ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : We want somebody responsible to exact work from the watchers and others appointed. For that one special Officer was necessary.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Are there not Deputy Rangers, Rangers and Deputy Conservators who could be very well held responsible for that ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I am coming to that. I had myself in a recommendation said that the question of looking after the game must be entrusted to a Game Warden who would be an independent officer having complete jurisdiction over the whole State, because we found that the subordinate officers were not so very enthusiastic and the Division Officers couldnot attend to it on account of the multifarious duties they had.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Should the Game Warden be independent of the Conservator or the Government ?

MR. R. DHANUKODI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : He must be a full -time officer having nothing to do with the other work pertaining to the Forest Department.

PRESIDENT : Having no other responsibility except this.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Yes, Sir. About this time the question of preserving wild game came into prominence all over the world. There were conferences and India also took part in them. A meeting was convened by His Excellency the Governor of Madras: and Travancore was invited to participate in it. We accepted the invitation and sent one of our officers to attend the meeting. Meanwhile there was another conference convened at Delhi by His Excellency the Viceroy and we were also invited to take part in it. The Travancore State had already obtained some sort of re-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

cognition with regard to the abundance of wild game. Till recently, the State of Travancore held the record for bison heads. The other day a doctor from Colombo who had come here was asking me whether I knew of a certain kind of monkey allied to the black monkeys. He made me to understand that he was under the impression that it did not exist in Malabar. But I told him that that it exists near Aramboly and I had seen seven or eight of them together in a tamarind grove near a temple.

MR. A THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Is it the ordinary black monkey ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : No. It would look just like the ordinary black monkey, but it is different. He was surprised at the information. On his way back to Colombo he went to Aramboly to look for the monkeys but was told by the local people that the monkeys would come there only when the tamarind fruits ripen. Later on after going to Colombo he has stated that unfortunately he could not come across the particular variety though he went to Aramboly for the purpose. He was told while there that the monkeys could be seen only when the tamarind was ripe. After going to Colombo he compared the notes he had made on the specimen preserved in the Natural History Museum in London and found that the specimen preserved there was collected from Aramboly a place in South Travancore

MR. K R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam*): May I know whether the opinion of the Game Warden was sought for in the matter ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I could not consult the Game Warden because he was at Peermade at that time. What I say is that Travancore had already made a name for the wild animals found here.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): What is the object of preserving these wild animals ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : With the advent of man into regions where wild animals were roaming, a large number of them had been destroyed, some of them have become extinct and some of them are on the verge of becoming extinct. For instance, the rhinoceros, which was once found in some of the forests in India, has almost disappeared. There are only eight or nine lions now in the whole of India. Likewise several animals have disappeared not only here but throughout the world The modern idea is that all wild animals also should be protected and preserved.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : Is it for the study of science or for other purpose ?

MR. R DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Apart from the study of these animals, it is believed that the animals who are also created by God have as much right to be in the world as man.(*Laughter*) Unless rational man went to their help, naturally they will be killed and destroyed.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : Is that right recognised when it comes into conflict with the right of man?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The idea is that, without infringing the right of man, the animals should be preserved.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it only wild animals that should be protected like that?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): They alone are in need of protection. Domesticated animals do not require protection by the State. It was on an acceptance of this universal, humanitarian principle that the Government of Travancore fell in appointing a full-time officer to look after the wild animals in the State.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Is this officer a specialist in zoology?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is not necessary that he should be a specialist in zoology. He must be a humanitarian first. He must also be in a position to know something of animal life, something of the conditions in which the animals live.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is he a vegetarian?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, a humanitarian need not always be a vegetarian though there is a sort of fallacious belief that a vegetarian only can be a humanitarian.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Will he not be at liberty to destroy game?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, a shikari is a better protector of wild animals than anybody else. He does not shoot indiscriminately all animals. He wants his trophy to be a good trophy and so he goes about picking animals which could be shot without injury to the rest. A keen shikari would never shoot a cow elephant or any female or immature animal.

Mr. Robinson at that time had just retired and I had myself made a recommendation that his services might be availed of. He had spent the best part of his life here during which he has been seeing eye to eye with the Forest Department. He was a shikari himself and had a good knowledge of the forest of the state. The idea was that he should train up the young men who were in the department so that, when the time came, they might replace him. Government thereupon appointed him Game Warden for a period of one year. Later on it was found that the period was too short for a continuity of action and so it was extended to three years.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, the reply of the official member is not at all satisfactory and therefore I press my motion.

The motion was put to the vote.

PRESIDENT: I think the motion is lost.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result.—

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

AYES—35.

1 Mr. K. C. Abraham
2 ,, S. Chattanatha Karayalar
3 ,, A. S. Damodaran Asan
4 ,, A. Easwara Pillai (*Kalkulam II*)
5 ,, A. Easwara Pillai (*Kottarakara*)
6 ,, K. R. Elenkath
7 ,, S. J. Nair
8 ,, N. Kesava Panickar
9 ,, K. M. Krishnan
10 ,, K. P. Krishna Menon
11 ,, Pottayil S. Krishna Panickar
12 ,, E. V. Krishna Pillai
13 ,, T. Krishna Pillai
14 ,, K. Kunjukrishna Pillai
15 ,, E. K. Kunjuraman
16 ,, M. K. Madhavan Pillai
17 ,, P. C. Narayanan Bhattatiripad
18 ,, K. A. Narayana Pillai
19 Mr. Pacode A. Narayan Pillai
20 Srimathi T. Narayani Amma
21 Mr. G. Nilakantan
22 ,, S. Nilakanta Pillai
23 ,, K. Padmanabhan
24 ,, Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon
25 ,, Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai
26 Rao Sahib S. Parameswara Aiyar
27 Mr. Changanachery K. Parameswaran Pillai
28 ,, R. Raman Pillai
29 ,, R. Sivaraman Nair
30 ,, M. Sivatanu Pillai
31 ,, A. Thanu Pillai
32 ,, S. Thiiaviam Nadar
33 ,, N. E. Varughese
34 ,, V. K. Velappan Nair
35 ,, T. P. Velayudhan Pillai

NOES—14.

1 Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan
2 ,, Antony George
3 ,, K. George
4 ,, M. Mahomed Haneef
5 ,, N. John Joseph
6 Rao Bahadur Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai
7 Mr. C. O. Madhavan
8 ,, N. K. Krishna Pillai
9 Mr. Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai
10 ,, R. Pitchu Aiyangar
11 Rao Bahadur A. Rengaswami Aiyar
12 Mr. P. K. Thomas
13 ,, T. C. Thommen
14 ,, John Whitely Tolson

NEUTRALS—7.

1 Mr. N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib
2 ,, T. K. Alexander
3 ,, V. T. Chacko
4 ,, T. C. Joseph
5 Mr. V. Ramakrishna Panicker
6 ,, K. Madhavan
7 ,, K. M. Kuriakose

The motion was declared carried.

Motions Nos. 509 to 511.

The following motions, being identical, were not made.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI:

509. To omit the allotment of Rs. 7,756 for Protection of Games.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI:

510. To omit the allotment of Rs. 7,756 for Protection of Games.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*) :

511. To omit the allotment of Rs. 7,756 for Protection of Games.

Motion No. 512.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Sir, I move the following motion :

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,144 for Ascu treatment of timber by Re. 1.

My object in moving this motion is to point out that no details are given in the budget as to how the money is proposed to be spent. Again Ascu treatment is experimented on teak timber which is very valuable and more durable and they could be used for more than 15 years without any treatment. My view is that such treatment must be tried on inferior kinds of timber such as Venteak, etc., so that they find a better market and not on teak. With this observation, I move the motion. The details of the allotment also should be explained.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Sir, Ascu treatment of timber is a process patented by Mr. Kamesam of the Dehra Dun Research Institute. The process consists in treating timber under pressure with a solution of arsenic oxide with copper sulphate and potassium dichromate.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : May I know whether such an experiment cannot be tried on inferior kinds of timber ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I am coming to that.

When timber is impregnated in this manner, it becomes immune to the attacks of insects and fungus. We purchased the patent from Mr. Kamesam because we found that, for the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Project, we would be requiring a large quantity of poles exposed to weather conditions. If the poles were treated by Ascu method, their life would be prolonged. If an untreated timber will last for ten years, the treated timber will last for twenty years. In this way we calculated that, if treated timber was used for the Pallivasal Project, we would be gainers to the extent of Rs. 5 lakhs.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*) : Why not you experiment on inferior timber ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : That will be done later.

We are paying Rs. 26 for an electric steel post. If we treat our timber and use the same for these posts we will not only find a sale for the timber in our plantations, but we will also save money because one post will cost only about Rs. 5. There is the idea of extending the telephone throughout the land. We will be having a very large saving if we use timber posts. These posts being immature cannot last long unless they are treated in this way. That is why these posts are treated.

At present our work is confined to supplying posts to the Electric Department. We are not able to supply fully the requirements of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

that Department. As an experiment, the Department is using untreated posts for a short length from Alwaye to Kothamangalam. So far we have treated about 900 posts for the line from Pallom to Alleppey. The treatment of double poles has just been taken up. Our idea is to confine the treatment at present to the requirements of the Electric Department. We had so many enquiries from private persons whether we could undertake that treatment of their timber. At present we are busy. We cannot undertake all that work. The object at present is to treat only teak for the use of the Electric Department. After the requirements of the Department have been supplied, we will try the treatment on inferior timber.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): I do not press the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 513.

The following motion lapsed on account of the time-limit:

MR. S. J. NAIR:

513. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7,52,848 under Demand X by Re. 1.

The question that a sum of Rs. 7,52,848 *minus* Rs. 7,756 be granted under Demand X—Forest, was then put and carried.

DEMAND XI—STAMPS.

RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASWAMI AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 67,908 under Demand XI—Stamps.

Motion No. 514.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,036 for Manufactory by Rs. 10.

My object in making this motion is to recommend to Government that the Service Stamps in the State can with advantage be done away with. I confess, at the outset that, I am not aware of the facts which necessitated Government to introduce these stamps in the State. But whatever may be the reasons, I hold the view that at present there is no necessity for retaining these service stamps. I think one reason for its introduction might have been that this would minimise the chances of committing fraud, on Government communications, by the public. If that be the reason, I ask the Financial Secretary to enlighten me whether any malpractices were committed by the public on Government communications when franking system was in force, and whether Government have attempted any other system instead, and found it unworkable. Another reason, Sir, appears to be to give credit to the Anchal Department for carrying Government parcels and letters. If that be the reason, I may say that there are ever so many other departments in the State for which payment is not being made.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): Is not the Anchal Department a commercial Department?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly